



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE**

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**Release Date:** 04-10-03  
**Release Number:** 03-12

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### ***Dr. William A. Gern Named Research Advocate of the Year***

**Laramie** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Dr. William A. Gern, the 2003 Research Advocate of the Year for the state of Wyoming.

This award is given to an individual who has contributed to the promotion of small business through research. Evaluation criteria include research products, including publications, articles or presentations on the value of small business; development or implementation of curricula to study small business or entrepreneurship and promotion of small business issues through research presented at national or international conferences.

The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

For the past seven years, Dr. William A Gern has served as Vice President for Research at the University of Wyoming and has played an important leadership role in combining scientific research with business development. He has oversight of all the economic development functions of the University of Wyoming as well as acting as a liaison with economic development partners across the state. He has served as a visionary, recognizing what resources the state needs and has spearheaded efforts to bring those resources to Wyoming. Dr. Gern was instrumental in the establishment of the statewide Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) initiative, the Research Products Center, Wyoming EPSCor, GRO-Biz (a procurement technical assistance center) and the Market Research Center. The SBIR Initiative has been recognized nationwide as a model program and Dr. Gern has been asked to present the model at several national conferences.

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